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Item 97 (b) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/71/50.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 O, entitled "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof", on 15 December 1989, the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

> *The General Assembly*,
>
> ...
>
> 8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report by 1992, and every three years thereafter until the fourth Review Conference is convened, on technological developments relevant to the Treaty and to the verification of compliance with the Treaty, including dual-purpose technologies for peaceful and specified military ends; in carrying out this task he should draw from official sources and from contributions by States parties to the Treaty and may use the assistance of appropriate expertise;
>
> 9. *Urges* all States parties to the Treaty to assist the Secretary-General accordingly by providing information and drawing his attention to suitable sources.

2. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 9 of the resolution, a note verbale was sent to the States parties to the Treaty inviting them to provide information on the subject. At the time of reporting, replies had been received from Jordan and Lebanon and are reproduced in section II. Additional replies received from States parties will be issued as addenda to the present report.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that the information submitted to him by States parties does not provide sufficient official material for him to report on the subject matter on the basis indicated in paragraph 8 of the resolution.

II. Information received from Governments

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[5 May 2016]

Introduction

(a) The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan believes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a danger to regional security and stability. This, in turn, leads to mistrust between States and to increased violence in the region, as well as to a greater desire among States to possess such weapons themselves, thereby giving rise to an arms race which could bring destruction and the misfortunes of war upon the entire world. It also has a profoundly negative effect on regional development and the well-being of peoples. Furthermore, maintaining a safe, clean and secure environment is important for the survival of the human race, and exploiting or interfering with that environment could provoke natural disasters in many countries. It is important to maintain the marine

environment — which covers many times more the area of dry land — clean and free of the dangers that would arise from the emplacement of such weapons there. Likewise, nuclear experiments which are incompatible with the land environment and its role in maintaining life should not be carried out on or under the sea, while using the subsoil to carry out nuclear experiments could have unfavourable consequences for all continents and lead to potentially destructive natural disasters. On the basis of this position, Jordan has signed most agreements concerning weapons of mass destruction, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and it participates actively in all initiatives and agreements concerning disarmament and regional and international security.

(b) Under the terms of the Treaty, States parties undertake not to emplant or emplace — or to assist, encourage or induce any State to emplant or emplace — on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof, any nuclear weapons or any other types of weapons of mass destruction as well as structures, launching installations or any other facilities specifically designed for storing, testing or using such weapons. Jordan itself possesses no weapons of mass destruction and uses official and international forums to call for the elimination of such weapons, inviting countries of the region and around the world to renounce violence, abandon conflict and establish peace. It also calls on the States of the region to trust one another, to strive for stability and to develop technologies which serve humankind and the welfare of peoples. Jordan believes that such weapons must be converted to serve all nations by, for example, the production of energy for peaceful purposes, or for other ends which bring security and stability to the world. This is preferable to countries seeking to obtain weapons of mass destruction, which can only bring tragedy and misfortune.

Towards a world free of weapons of mass destruction

(a) The existence of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to the survival of the human race, and the only true guarantee against the use or the threat of use of such weapons is their complete elimination and an avowal that they will never be produced again. Maintaining nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction entails the danger of their proliferating and falling into the hands of parties other than nuclear-weapon States. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing and equally important, and there must be a continuous and irreversible advance on both those fronts.

(b) The involvement of the international community as a whole is vital to maintaining and promoting international peace and stability. International security is a collective concern requiring a collective commitment to all internationally negotiated disarmament treaties, which have made such a fundamental contribution to global peace and security. At the same time, unilateral or bilateral nuclear disarmament measures would complement the multilateral approach enshrined in nuclear disarmament treaties.

(c) It is important to stress the right of developing countries, without discrimination, to undertake research into the production of nuclear energy and to use such energy for peaceful purposes within the limits set by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy

(a) The peaceful use of nuclear energy is a right which brings obligations. The right to use nuclear energy peacefully, as a concept, means using it for activities which are peaceful according to the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Therefore, applying the principle that all countries must be allowed to participate in the peaceful application of nuclear technology, it may be said that the peaceful use of nuclear energy means making such energy available for all countries to use for peaceful purposes. However, it does not follow that such a right is absolute and unconditional. Its exercise must not be for the purpose of causing damage beyond the borders of the State concerned, pursuant to the rules governing the responsibility of States. The legal consequence for any infraction of those rules is the obligation to pay compensation for any damage caused by such use.

The position of Jordan

(a) Jordan has no nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction. It possesses neither the weapons themselves nor their delivery systems and it does not handle them in any way, either directly or indirectly. Nor does it have any ambition or intention to obtain or develop any programme related to such weapons. Moreover, at no time has Jordan ever given any scientific, technical or material assistance to any other party attempting to obtain or develop nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, nor does it allow any activities related to such weapons to take place on its territory. For this reason, Jordan has signed all relevant international treaties and supports all international and regional efforts aimed at achieving nuclear security and prohibiting the use of weapons of mass destruction. In fact, Jordan was among the first States in the region to sign United Nations treaties exhorting States not to possess such weapons, believing as it does that true peace and stability in the world cannot be achieved except by uniting international and regional efforts to limit the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons and to achieve nuclear security.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2016]

Lebanon wishes to emphasize that it does not possess, manufacture or store nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and is in compliance with United Nations resolutions on the subject. Therefore, it possesses no nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction on the seabed, the ocean floor or in the subsoil thereof.